

The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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Tax Relief Workshops for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Fairfax County provides real estate and car tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older or are permanently and totally disabled and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. The Providence District Supervisor is again hosting one-on-one appointments in our office on Tuesday, **March 13 and Thursday, March 15 between the hours of 10:00 and 2:00 pm.** For additional information or to schedule an appointment in our office with a representative from the Department of Tax Administration, please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711. The Providence Supervisor's office is located at 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax (at the rear of the Merrifield Fire Station).

For eligibility requirements, please refer to the Tax Relief – Frequently Asked Questions – at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_faq.htm. For an application, call 703-222-8234 TTY: 703-222-7594; Espanol 703-324-3855, between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm weekdays, email taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov or download the tax relief application at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/forms.htm#Other_Forms

Friends of Oakton Library Used Book Sale

Thursday, March 22, 1p.m. – 8p.m.

Friday, March 23, 10a.m. – 6p.m.

Saturday, March 24, 10a.m. – 3p.m.

Those wishing to donate gently used books to the sale please take them to the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, by March 1st. To volunteer to help with the sale, or for community service for students, please call Ann at 703-242-7277. Become a Friend of the Oakton Library at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/ok/.

A message from Supervisor Smyth

2012 will be a year of milestones in Providence. In transportation, we will see the long awaited completion of two major projects. First, the Gallows/Lee Highway intersection improvements in the heart of Merrifield are scheduled to be finished late this fall. The second project, the 495 Express Lanes (formerly known as the HOT Lanes), will open a new 4 lane variably priced tolling facility on the Capital Beltway by the end of this year. The additional road capacity from these projects should help ease commutes through our area.

This fall will also mark the opening of new stores, restaurants, and a theater in the Merrifield Town Center. The result of a community based planning effort, Merrifield is recognized as the success story of revitalization in Fairfax County. Besides the Town Center, development continues at the Dunn Loring Metro Station site where a new 2000 space garage is under construction to provide more parking for Metro riders.

At the Vienna Metro Station, road work is also underway to improve access to the south side of the station and bus circulation. Adjoining the station, the MetroWest development is progressing. As part of the developer's proffered commitments, a new county community center will be built there. The ground breaking for the community center will take place later this year.

Finally, it is once again time for the county budget process. The County Executive will present his proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors on February 28. The following week Patty Reed, our Providence representative on the School Board, and I will host a joint **community budget meeting**. This event will be held on Wednesday, **March 7, at 7:00 pm in the library of Thoreau Middle School**, located at 2505 Cedar Lane. We hope to see you there.

~ Linda Smyth

County Executive to Retire



Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin has announced his plans to retire in April 2012 after a 12-year tenure as county executive, the second-longest tenure since the position was created in 1952. Overall, he will have served Fairfax County for a total of 23 years. Before coming to Fairfax County, Griffin was city manager for the City of Falls Church, deputy county manager for Arlington County and served as a U.S. Marine Corps officer in Vietnam.

Under his leadership, Fairfax County was named “one of the best-managed jurisdictions in America” by *Governing* magazine, which also gave Fairfax County a No. 1 rating in the Pew Charitable Trust’s Government Performance Project. The county has consistently received bond ratings of AAA from Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s and Fitch Investors Service. Through the years, his leadership has encompassed projects both large and small such as emergency preparedness, Tysons Corner redevelopment, Dulles Rail and the plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Griffin also has served the National Capital Region with distinction. As chair of the Chief Administrative Officers Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Griffin led regional efforts to coordinate local government decisions and responses in the wake of 9/11. More recently, in April 2010, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano appointed Griffin to the local, state, tribal and federal Preparedness Task Force. Griffin’s leadership has been recognized nationally through the years. Most recently he received the 2011 International City/County Management Association’s Award for Career Excellence.

Free Discount Card for Prescription Drugs (Including Pets)

You may be able to save money on prescription drugs by using this free, discount card. To make it available, the county is partnering with ProAct, a pharmacy benefit management company. This card can cut drug prices by 10 to 70 percent, depending on the kind of medicine and amount you buy. The card mainly will help people without health insurance—but it may provide savings to those with insurance anytime they must pay full price for a drug. It also can save you money on some kinds of medicines for your pets. It's free to use the card because pharmacies are providing the discounts. There are no income or eligibility requirements to use it and you don't need to register or enroll. You can use it at almost every pharmacy in the county, plus 62,000 others across the nation. For additional information and to print the card and start saving, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/prescriptioncard. Help is available 24/7 and in languages other than English at ProAct’s website, www.fairfaxrxdiscountcard.com, or by calling 1-877-776-2285, TTY 711.

2012 FREE CHILD-SAFETY-SEAT INSPECTIONS HELD BY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

The Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office has scheduled free inspections of child safety seats the following Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm: Feb. 25, Mar. 31, Apr. 28, May 26, June 30, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 17 and Dec. 29 at the public parking garage of the Fairfax County Public Safety Center, 10550 Page Ave. in Fairfax. Trained and certified sheriff’s deputies will help parents and caregivers ensure that a child fits securely in the safety seat and that the safety seat fits securely in the vehicle seat.

Virginia law requires that all children up to age 8 must be in a child-restraint device, and that rear-facing infant seats must be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the rear-facing infant seat may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.

Current General Assembly Session

The 2012 regular session of the General Assembly convened on Wednesday, January 11, at 12 noon. The General Assembly meets annually, beginning on the second Wednesday in January, for 60 days in even-numbered years and for 30 days in odd-numbered years, with an option to extend annual sessions for a maximum of 30 days. There are a number of online resources available on the Virginia General Assembly website to assist you in taking an active role in the legislative process. Contact your representative about a particular issue before the Legislature takes action on it. Using the Legislative Information System, you can track legislation and review committee agendas. You can even testify before committees on issues important to you. To find more information about tracking a bill, visit http://legis.virginia.gov/1_cit_guide/how_track.html.

Due to the redistricting that occurred in 2011, your state and local representatives may have changed. You may find the name and contact information for your state, local and federal legislators at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gisapps/myneighborhood and following the steps to get to your specific report. Once you get to the report for your address, click on "view full report" in the upper left of the screen to expand the report. At www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/citizen/, you will find additional information including a link to where you vote, upcoming elections, your registration status, absentee voting, and valid forms of ID. You may also call 703-222-0776.

Mantua Precinct Polling Place Change

The Kena Masonic Temple advised the county that it no longer wanted to make space available for voting. Effective with the next election, the voting location for the **Mantua Precinct** will change as follows:

FROM: Kena Masonic Temple, 9001
Arlington Boulevard
TO: **Fairfax Circle Baptist Church, 3110
Chichester Lane**

Providence Community Budget Meeting

Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth and School Board Member Patty Reed will host a community meeting on the FY 2013 Budget on **Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna, VA**. Providence residents are encouraged to attend and learn about the projected shortfalls facing the county and to voice priorities and recommendations.

Fairfax County's FY 2013 Budget Hearings Schedule

Budget Presentation - Tuesday, February 28, 2012, the County Executive will present the FY 2013 Advertised Budget to Board of Supervisors

Budget Hearings in the Government Center Auditorium
Tuesday, April 10, 2012, beginning at 6:00 pm;
Wednesday April 11 and Thursday, April 12,
beginning at 3:00 pm

Budget Markup - Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Budget Adoption - Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Free Tax Preparation Assistance for Qualified Residents

If you worked in 2011 and earned less than \$50,000, you may qualify to have IRS certified volunteers help ensure you receive the maximum tax refund and help determine if you are eligible for the earned income tax credit. Families throughout Northern Virginia received over \$8.1 million in federal refunds last tax season through this free service. For more information about the volunteer income tax assistance program, please visit www.nvacash.org or contact the Fairfax Job Center at 703-324-7280; TTY 711

Document Shredding Event

On **Saturday, July 21**, Providence District will host a document shredding event in the parking lot of the **Oak Marr RECenter from 8:00 am until noon**. The RECenter is located at 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Residents may bring up to five boxes or bags of paper to be shredded on site. Staples in the paper are okay, but all plastic binders, plastic film and metal binder clips must be removed. This shredding event is for paper documents only; no electronic files will be accepted for destruction. This shredding event does not provide for HIPAA compliance for medical service providers.

Water Rates in Providence District

It recently came to my attention that many of you may be receiving your information regarding the Board's passing of the Water Ordinance from sources that may be placing their own particular slant on what they are reporting as news. Because I am the only Supervisor on the Board who has constituents who are served by three municipal water providers in addition to Fairfax Water, I believe I am in a particularly good position to set the record straight and to let you know the facts about what is actually going on.

As many of you will recall, on December 6, 2011, the Board passed a new ordinance, commonly referred to as the "Water Ordinance," in an attempt to correct the injustice that has been imposed upon those of you who receive water from these municipalities, particularly the City of Falls Church.

Currently, 92 percent of Falls Church's water customers reside in Fairfax County. Since 1980, Falls Church has transferred approximately \$58 million dollars from its water fund to its general fund. This transfer, like the other money in their general fund, has been used over these years by Falls Church to run its city government. The effect of this has been of great benefit to the city residents, at the expense of the Fairfax County residents. For example, the amount of the transfer by the City Council from its water fund to its general fund in 2001 was equivalent to a savings of 34 cents on the City's real estate rate. And this transfer was only possible because of the surplus in the City's water fund created as a result of the water rates charged to their customers, most of whom were Fairfax County residents.

All of that unfair practice should have ended when the Fairfax County Circuit Court declared on January 6, 2010, that

[N]inety-two percent of that transfer was funded by Fairfax County customers who are not represented on the Falls Church City Council. The Court finds that the profits derived from the [water] rates charged to Fairfax County residents violate the principle of no-taxation-without-representation, and thus, amount to an unconstitutional tax.

The City of Falls Church, nonetheless, decided to raise its water rates on September 12, 2011, by 8 percent. This increase in the water rates made no sense at all because even before they raised the water rates, the City Council had enough of a surplus in its water fund to transfer millions of dollars each year to its general fund. Now that the Court's order prohibited the City from transferring that surplus, the City still contended it needed another 8 percent rate increase to provide for "reserves" in its water fund.

The Board of Supervisors could not tolerate this unfair and unwarranted treatment of Fairfax County residents. Accordingly, after receiving the study conducted by the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission, during which Falls Church refused to provide documents or answer questions, the Board passed the Water Ordinance that simply requires the municipalities that provide water to residents of Fairfax County to justify those rates to ensure that they are fair and reasonable. All of the municipalities that provide water within Fairfax County, which are the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax and the towns of Vienna and Herndon, contend that their rates are fair and reasonable. But if that claim is in fact true, then why do they have such an objection to providing the information to justify their rates to Fairfax County so that we can be sure that our residents are not paying more for water than they should be?

These cities and towns are claiming that they should not have to answer to the Board of Supervisors regarding what they may want to charge for water service, and I agree that that is true for the residents who live in those cities and towns who have the ability to vote their officials out of office if they don't think the rates set by them are fair and reasonable. But their Fairfax County customers do not have that same right. Moreover, at least at the present time, the Fairfax County customers of those municipalities are "captive" customers because they have no other source to supply water to them.

By passing the Water Ordinance, the Board of Supervisors is trying to ensure that existing Fairfax County residents and businesses are not required by these municipal water suppliers to subsidize the running of their cities or towns through their higher water rates. And despite what you may have heard or read elsewhere, I can assure you that the Board has repeatedly reached out to each of these cities and towns both directly and through the County's water provider, Fairfax Water. We have tried to resolve the issues and to get them to join forces with us to provide the best water possible to all Fairfax County residents at the lowest possible rates. That should be the goal for all of us.



Another Award for Providence's Marlene Blum

Marlene Blum adds the 2011 Lawrence Fowler Award to her long list of well-deserved awards. This award is in recognition of the distinguished volunteer service of a longstanding member of a Fairfax County board, authority, commission or committee whose exceptional service contributed to the overall quality of life in the community. Marlene has been the Providence District representative on the Health Care Advisory Board since 1985 and has served as its chair since 1988. She was instrumental in the development of the Community Health Care Network, a model for the provision of medical care for uninsured residents, and the HIV/AIDS Case Management Program. She was a founder of the Access to Health Care Consortium, providing a regional forum for health care providers on issues such as Medicaid coverage expansion and was a founder of the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services. She also chaired the Committee on Medically Fragile Homeless persons that focused on medical respite care for shelter residents.

Marlene chaired the Community Funding Implementation Team that designed the county's Consolidated Community Funding Pool, a nationally recognized, citizen-driven process for responding to community needs through the funding of programs provided by nonprofit organizations. She continues to serve on the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee. She also participated in the design and restructuring of the county's "Continuum of Care" planning process and serves on the Community Planning Collaborative on Homelessness Council and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. Marlene is also active in the Jewish community, serving as a Board Member of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

For over thirty years, Marlene has been the epitome of civic engagement having a significant impact on the quality of life in Fairfax County. Thank you, Marlene, for all you've done and continue to do.

Advance Health Care Directive Registry

Virginia has launched a statewide Advance Health Care Directive Registry. An Advance Health Care Directive lets other people know the types of health care you do and do not want in the event you are unable to express your wishes on your own. The secure registry, available to all legal Virginia residents, stores documents that detail and protect health care wishes in the event a person is unable to speak for themselves. These documents include medical power of attorney, do not resuscitate orders, and other health care wishes. The Advance Health Care Directive ensures that loved ones, as well as health care providers, know a person's wishes and who they want making medical decisions for them including organ donation wishes. To learn more about the registry go to www.virginiaregistry.org. Legal Virginia residents without computer access can call 800-224-0791 for help and more information.

Don't Get Scammed!

An 86-year-old Springfield area woman was told recently that she had won the lottery but that she needed to wire money to the "caller" in order to collect her winnings. A 91-year-old Fair Oaks area man was upset and concerned when he got a call from his "grandson" who said he'd been arrested and jailed in Peru a few weeks ago. Doing what any loving grandparent would, the man wired over \$13,000 in an attempt to help. An 80-year-old woman wired \$4800 to Bolivia to her "granddaughter" who was there for a wedding and had gotten into a serious accident; then sent \$5000 more for medical expenses.

All three of these victims were recently duped by scammers who are aggressively preying on seniors. Sadly, these are just a few of the hundreds of cases detectives in the Financial Crimes Unit see each year. Worse yet, once money has been wired, victims have very little recourse and these cases are rarely prosecutable.

To learn more about financial crimes and scams or to report a crime, visit the Financial Crime Online Reporting site of the FCPD website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/financialcrimes. To request a group presentation, contact Lucy Caldwell, Public Information Office at 703-246-3271.

Land Use Updates

Tysons Corner Plan Implementation: The new Comprehensive Plan for Tysons envisions up to 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs by 2050. The plan has been designed to take advantage of the four new Metro stations coming to Tysons in 2013 with 75 percent of future growth occurring within a half mile of these new Metro stations. For more details about the plan please visit the website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner>. To review approved and pending Tysons rezoning applications, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/development. On January 24, 2012, the Board of Supervisors endorsed the Tysons Urban Design Guidelines. The new guidelines will help offer specific guidance for planting, building, urban park and interim condition designs and materials. The document is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/design>.

Merrifield Updates: The developers of three approved mixed use projects in the Providence District, including redevelopment of the Dunn Loring Metro Station by Mill Creek Residential, the DFS Long Merrifield Halstead mixed use project and the Merrifield Town Center (Mosaic at Merrifield), are all moving forward with construction of their respective projects.

Redevelopment of the Dunn Loring Metro Station by Mill Creek Residential will entail the multi-phased construction of temporary kiss and ride and surface parking facilities. When completed the station will include a new 2000 space WMATA parking garage, bus bays and kiss and ride facilities.

Edens & Avant, the developer of **Mosaic at Merrifield**, is quickly constructing the first phase of the development fronting Lee Highway including an urban Target store, boutique hotel, grocery store, additional ground floor retail, restaurant space, a new movie theater and a one acre urban park. This first phase is planned to open this fall. Subsequent phases will include retail, restaurant space and multifamily residential buildings. The townhome component of this project is currently under construction by EYA.

Edens & Avant has also realigned and upgraded Eskridge Road to connect to Lee Highway to form a new intersection with Merrilee Drive. The county is working to complete the connection of Eskridge Road south to Williams Drive (and Route 50). This crucial comprehensive planned road connection will allow direct access to the Dunn Loring Metro Station without having to use Gallows Road or Prosperity Avenue. For more information on development approvals see <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSmain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4086975>

Vienna/Fairfax Metro Station Updates: Pulte, the primary developer of the MetroWest development project has initiated construction of proffered **improvements to Saintsbury Drive and the Metro Station**. The phased construction will maintain pedestrian and auto access to and from the station. However continuing through June, customers who use Saintsbury Drive to access the Vienna/Fairfax Metro station from Nutley Street will be rerouted. Future construction phases will include a temporary relocation of bus stops to the north and south sides of the station in early March, 2012, and the closure or relocation of metered parking spaces over several months. Parking in the station's two garages and surface lots will not be affected. When construction is completed, bus customers will have 12 new bus bays and shelters with a continuous canopy to the station entrance, expanded roadway capacity, new traffic signals and improved pedestrian and bicycle paths. http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=5136

Construction of new county community center will start later this year and is anticipated to be completed in 2013. It will be located just south of the Vienna/Fairfax Metro station off Vaden Drive and immediately west of the MetroWest project. This new Fairfax County Community Center is a proffered improvement approved with the MetroWest development. It will include a full-sized gym with associated facilities, meeting space and other recreational facilities. See design sketch below. **(Land use updates continued on page 7.)**



(Land use updates continued from page 6)

Defense Health Headquarters (DHHQ): As part of the Base Realignment and Closure process (BRAC) the military is consolidating their health care administrative operations in a new Defense Health Headquarters (DHHQ): <http://www.tricare.mil/dhhq/BuildingInfo.aspx>. The facility is to be located in a renovated building located at 7700 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church. Many residents may be familiar with the building. Past tenants included Raytheon and E-Systems.

This by-right renovation has been underway for nearly a year. The federal government and the owners of the building anticipate that the phased occupancy of the building will begin this spring. At the request of Supervisor Smyth the owners of the building and federal government representatives have initiated public outreach meetings with adjacent residents to fully inform them about the projects status and convey what efforts are being made to mitigate any transportation effects that may arise with the utilization of this site. County transportation staff is monitoring the project also. The owners of the building, GBA Associates, also established a website providing updates and contact information: <http://7700arlingtonblvd.com/>.

If you have any land use questions please contact my aide, Michael Wing, at 703-560-6946.

What Happens When I Report a Zoning Violation?

When a resident thinks there is a zoning violation at a property such as overcrowding, noise, property maintenance, blight, etc., the Department of Code Compliance (DCC) is the agency within the county that receives the complaint. DCC is complaint driven and acts when a resident notifies them that a possible zoning violation exists. The complainant's name is protected under the Freedom of Information Act so no one should hesitate to file a complaint out of fear of retaliation.

DCC sends an inspector out to investigate the complaint and, if founded, DCC contacts the property owner seeking voluntary compliance. Failing that, DCC issues a notice of violation stating the nature of the complaint and providing a period of time in which the property owner must comply (usually between 15 to 30 days depending on the violation). If the property owner does not comply, DCC prepares the documentation and it is then processed through the courts. At this point the job of DCC ends for that case. There is a process to appeal the notice of violation, and this appeal is heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals, which is a body appointed by the Courts. You may find additional information about filing a zoning complaint at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code. For additional information about the Board of Zoning Appeals see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/bza.

Reporting Environmental Crimes and Violations

While the process for reporting zoning, property maintenance and public safety concerns is frequently publicized (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code), residents also may observe environmental concerns that should be reported for appropriate action. The process for reporting these potential environmental crimes and violations is as follows:

Any active release of materials into a stream, manhole, storm sewer or onto the ground, call 911

Hazardous materials-dangerous, call 911

Hazardous materials—no immediate danger, during working hours call 703-246-4386, after hours call 703-691-2131

Release of any other material into the environment, call 703-583-3800

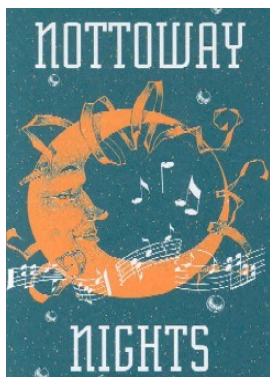
Land clearing; erosion and sedimentation (dumping of fill), call 703-324-1937

Soil erosion on private property (non-construction sites), call 703-324-1937

Website Language Translation

The county codes, regulations, procedures and other documents are written in English because that is the official language of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Translations of documents into other languages are being offered as a convenience to those who live and work in the county and to those who visit the county through "machine translation" powered by **Google Translate**. If there is any discrepancy between an English version of a document and a translated version, then the English version will take precedence. For more information and to access this service, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/languagetranslations.htm.

2011 Nottoway Nights Free Concert Series Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.



Mark your summer calendar for the return of the FREE Nottoway Nights Concert Series at Nottoway Park! The program takes place on the lawn of the historic Hunter House. Supervisor Smyth thanks the Friends of Nottoway, the Park Authority and staff as well as the many sponsors who make these free concerts possible for residents to enjoy.

**Nottoway Park is located at
9601 Courthouse Road in Vienna**

JUNE

- 21 Natty Beaux (Swing)**
- 28 Ted Garber (Pop/Rock)**

JULY

- 5 Seldom Scene (Bluegrass)**
- 12 Korean Dance and Music (Korean)**
- 19 Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders (Folk)**
- 26 Toubab Krewe (Mali/American)**

AUGUST

- 2 Orquesta Curare (Salsa)**
- 9 The Lovejoy Group (Jazz)**
- 16 Cathy Ponton King (Blues)**
- 23 Elvis Tribute Band, Jed Deuvall (Rock&Roll)**
- 30 Honky Tonk Confidential (Country)**

If you or your organization would like to volunteer to help at Nottoway Nights, please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711. Concerts are cancelled in case of rain, and decisions are made by 6:00 p.m. Please call 703-324-SHOW, TTY 711, for cancellations, directions and general information. More park information is available on the Fairfax County Park Authority website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/parks/.

Easter Egg Hunt at Nottoway Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Nottoway will host the annual Egg Hunt and a visit with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 7. Children (1-9 yrs.) will hunt for eggs and candy and win special prizes. Tickets: \$7/child, with proceeds benefitting Nottoway Park improvements. Walk-in registration (cash only) starts at 9:30 AM in the picnic shelter. Hunt times: 11 AM (1-3 yrs.), 11:20 AM (4-6 yrs.) and 11:40 AM (7-9 yrs.). Bring your own basket. **The event will be cancelled in case of rain.** Call 703-324-8566 for a cancellation update. Directions: Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Beltway Exit 49 (I-66) to exit at Route 234 or Nutley Street north, turn left on Courthouse Road and the park entrance will be on the left.

Take Back the Forest

Dig in and get involved with native habitat restoration in the Nottoway woodlands. Help TAKE BACK THE FOREST: remove invasive plants and replant native species. Students and scouts earn community service hours. Scout projects are welcome.

Workdays (9 AM-Noon): Saturdays, February 25, March 24, April 21, May 5; Wednesdays (3-6 PM), March 14, April 18, May 9.

Check the schedule for additional Nottoway workdays: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA/IMA-calendar.htm.

More Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima, 703-324-8681, TTY 711 or friendsofnottoway@gmail.com.

2012 Native Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is having their native tree and shrub seedlings sale — Incredible Edibles for Humans and Wildlife. This year's seedling sale features native species that have fruits, berries, nuts, leaves or roots you can eat or use yourself and that birds and other wildlife will find delicious. Choose 10 bare-root shrubs and small trees for \$15.95 or 7 bare-root trees for \$11.95, available for pick-up in late April. Deadline for ordering is **Monday, April 16, 2012** or until supplies run out. For information on ordering and to see images and scientific names for this year's plants, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm.

Transportation Matters

HOT Lanes Project

2012 marks the final year of construction; project is 84% complete

It's time to change lanes

Up to this point, you have known the project as the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes. The name has been changed from HOT Lanes to 495 Express Lanes as part of Federal Highway Administration's regulations and to match the new highway signage. In 2012, the final stretch of construction for the Express Lanes is underway. For information on how to use the 495 Express Lanes, please visit www.495ExpressLanes.com.

Beltway and interchange bridge construction advancing

As part of the Express Lanes, every interchange or overpass bridge that crosses over the Beltway must be demolished and rebuilt. New bridge spans were completed at every major Beltway interchange in 2010 and 2011. This includes demolition of old bridges, erecting steel, realigning ramps, and completing bridge decks.

In 2012, motorists should expect Beltway lanes and ramps to be placed into the final alignment and all interchange work to be completed. Overhead sign structures and new message boards will be installed along the entire 14-mile project corridor as well as along the arterial roads. The center Express Lanes will take shape and the entire project will be completed in late 2012. For updates on the construction activities and lane closures please visit www.VAmegaprojects.com.

Lee Highway and Gallows Road Intersection Improvement

This project has proceeded from its initial utility relocation work and nearly completed its first phase, in which construction work has focused mostly around Merrilee Drive, Juniper Street, Hartland Road, and Strawberry Lane.

Phases two through four will take place over the coming months and be completed by the end of 2012. As with any construction project, schedules are subject to weather conditions. The successive phases will focus on center lanes, median construction, and tie-ins with the HOT Lanes project on Lee Highway. Once completed, the project will provide sidewalks, dual left-turn lanes, and right-turn lanes in order to provide enhanced throughput and pedestrian connectivity.

Information about this and other Merrifield construction projects can be found on the Providence web page: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/doc/merrifield_revitalization.pdf.

Dunn Loring-Merrifield Metro Station

Development of the mixed-use project at this Metro station has required reconfiguration of the entire site. As a result, the Kiss & Ride lot has been significantly changed to a smaller footprint. Additionally, the project has required relocation of the bus bays for the next two and half years to facilitate pedestrian safety. A map of these changes and information about the relocated bus bays can be found on the Metro website: www.wmata.com.

New Snow Removal Tracking Tool

The next time it snows more than 2 inches, you can track VDOT snowplows on your computer. The Virginia Department of Transportation is currently testing the online tool and Fairfax is one of the test areas. Users can monitor whether crews have started plowing a particular "snow map" region on the county grid. Northern Virginia streets are divided into 600 snow maps, so while street-by-street progress is not shown, residents can see what neighborhoods have been plowed. Green indicates a neighborhood has been plowed, Yellow means plows are in progress in the neighborhood, Blue indicates plows have not yet started the neighborhood, and Gray means the area is not maintained by VDOT. Cities, towns and some developments maintain their own roads. Residents will be able to see what VDOT sees. Even though it's been a mild winter, it's not over yet. Keep this tool in mind if the weather decides to take a turn for the worse. The tool can be found at <http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov>.

New Park in Providence

The Fairfax County Park Authority has recently acquired a 7.2 acre property from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) located on Idylwood Road in the Falls Church area of Fairfax County. The property is a mix of wooded and meadow space and presently has a few residential structures that are not occupied. The Park Authority and the NVCT joined in a cooperative effort to obtain a grant under the auspices of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to assist in defraying the cost of the acquisition. At a future date, the Park Authority will undertake a master plan process to determine the ultimate development of park uses and facilities. With the public's participation in this process, future uses, facilities, and visitor experiences at the park will be determined.



Farmers Markets Opening Soon

Each May to November the Fairfax County Park Authority sponsors twelve Farmers Markets throughout Fairfax County. These open-air markets spring to life with colorful fruits and

vegetables, fresh baked goods, flowers and other delights all produced by vendors within 125 miles of Fairfax County. The Fairfax County Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners offer Plant Clinics at most markets. The Farmers Market in the Providence District is located at the Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. It is open Wednesdays, May 4 – November 16, from 8:00 am – Noon. Visit the Park Authority website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm for a listing of all Farmers Markets in Fairfax.

Oak Marr Park Playing Fields

The installation of state-of-the-art lighting systems to support the conversion of two rectangular fields at Oak Marr Park to synthetic turf is underway. The synthetic turf installation will commence in late April or early May, 2012, and should be substantially complete by this coming fall. The scope of work includes installation of two 190' by 370' fields, including striping for multipurpose sports, installation of regulation cricket pitch between the two fields, placement of sod, creation of an accessible route to the fields, and installation of goal posts.

The field conversion project is funded through park bonds, field improvement funds, as well as proffers. For more information contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

Reforest Fairfax – A Gifting Program

Reforest Fairfax is an initiative of the Fairfax County Restoration project, a public-private partnership that works to connect, create and promote efforts to restore ecosystem functions in Fairfax County through collaboration with public, private and volunteer organizations. The Reforest Fairfax initiative is a gifting program designed to help restore the tree canopy in Fairfax County. For each gift purchased, five tree seedlings will be planted by Fairfax ReLeaf during the upcoming planting season, either spring or fall. The gift of trees will help beautify and improve the environment of Fairfax County. Tree gifts are appropriate for any occasion, including client thank-yous, fundraisers, corporate promotions, loyalty program awards, teacher appreciations, birthday and graduation presents, and baby and wedding gifts. For more information and to purchase trees, visit www.fcrpp3.org/reforestfairfax/. For more information about Fairfax ReLeaf visit www.fairfaxreleaf.org.

Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day is **May 18**. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments are currently redesigning the Bike to Work Day website for 2012 and expect to launch the new website in early March. It will be located at www.waba.org/events/btwd/index.php. On Bike to Work Day there will be regional pit stops in DC, Maryland and Virginia. Each pit stop will offer a local mix of food, drinks, entertainment, dynamic speakers and chances to win bicycles and other prizes. Be sure to register with your pit stop location to be eligible for prizes. The locations in Providence are the Merrifield Pit Stop at Sandburg Street and the W&OD Trail between 6:30 – 8:30 am and the Tysons Corner Pit Stop at 8283 Greensboro Drive, McLean, between 6:30 – 9:00 am.





News from your Providence District

School Board Member. . . Patty Reed

Happy New Year! Thank you for re-electing me to a four-year term on the Fairfax County School Board. Our Board has six new members and six returning members. This year, we will begin a search for a new Superintendent to replace Dr. Jack Dale, retiring in June 2013. Here is an update on a few items of interest.

Honors Courses

As you know, I am a vocal advocate for providing opportunities that allow each and every child to achieve his or her potential. Consequently, I am pleased to report that the School Board recently voted to add a "third-tier option" of five honors-level courses for the 2012-2013 school year: English 11 Honors, World History and Geography 2 Honors, English 12 Honors, Virginia and United States History Honors, and Virginia and United States Government Honors. These courses are to be offered on site, if there is sufficient enrollment.

FY 2013-2014 Budget

On January 12, Superintendent Dale released the school system's FY 2013 Proposed Budget of \$2.4 billion, an increase of 9 percent, or \$202.3 million, from the FY 2012 Approved Budget. The budget deliberations now begin. Please send me your comments or attend a public hearing. We will finalize the budget in May.

February 9	School Board adopts FY 2013 Advertised Budget for schools
February 28	Fairfax County Executive releases FY 2013 Advertised Budget Plan for county
April 10, 11, 12	Board of Supervisors holds public hearings on Advertised Budget for county
May 15-16	School Board holds public hearings on school budget
May 24	School Board adopts FY 2013 Approved Budget

Capital Improvement Program

The school system is facing a challenging situation in which student enrollment growth is projected to exceed the school system's ability to accommodate students within existing school buildings. The Board recently approved the 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which provides five year enrollment projections and capacity calculations and identifies new construction, capacity enhancement, renovation, and infrastructure requirements. FY2013-FY2017 five-year capital requirement totals \$848.5 million or roughly \$169.6 million per year. The majority of School Board members voted to request that the Board of Supervisors increase the School Board's capital funding limit from \$155 million to \$180 million per year effective in FY 2014, and that the formal request be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors with the School Board's approved 2013-2017 CIP. Here's the link to the CIP and background information: <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/cip.shtml>

Comprehensive Planning Development

I am the new Chairman of the School Board's Comprehensive Planning Development Committee (CPDC). Last fall, CPDC established an "umbrella planning group" known as the Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC) to advise and inform the staff and School Board in the development of comprehensive, long term plans for facilities needs in the most effective and efficient way. FPAC will submit a draft Strategic Facilities Plan to the School Board in June 2012. In addition, the Board recently referred the issue of the renovation "queue" and criteria for FPAC consideration. The queue shows that a number of our schools, such as Falls Church High School, must wait several more years for needed renovations. As a result, parents at FCHS formed a group called **UPROAR** to raise awareness of the major facilities needs at this school and to advocate for a renovation and revision of the criteria used to prioritize schools. The Board will explore system-wide construction and renovation policies this summer.

The views expressed in this column are my personal views as your School Board member and may not reflect the perspective of the full Fairfax County School Board. I welcome your comments and concerns about FCPS business. Please send your messages to **Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu**. Please note that all correspondence is subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
8739 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

THE PROVIDENCE REPORT

Must-Have Phone Numbers

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

Adult Protective Services: 703-324-7450/ Child Protective Services: 703-324-7400

Suicide Crisis Hotline: (703) 527-4077 Rape Crisis Hotline: 1-800-656-4673

Adult Education	703-658-1201	Alcohol/drug abuse services	703-359-7040
Animal Shelter	703-830-1100	Child care	703-324-8100
Consumer Affairs	703-222-8435	Circuit Courts	703-691-7320
Dept. of Motor Vehicles	804-497-7100	I-66 Disposal Sites	703-631-1179
Emergency	911	Fastran	703-222-9764
Fire/rescue (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	Gang Unit-Police	703-246-4567
Human Services	703-222-0880	Library, Oakton	703-242-4020
Park Authority	703-324-8700	Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Tax Information	703-222-8234	Recreation Classes	703-324-5550
Recycling InfoLine	703-324-5052	School-Age Child Care Program	703-449-8989
School Board	571-423-1075	Senior Citizen Information	703-324-7948
Traffic Tickets	703-246-3764	Trash Pick-up	703-324-5230
VDOT	703-383-8368	Voting Information	703-222-0776

Please call 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711 for other county related information.

Copies of the 2007 Providence Resource Directory are available by calling the Providence District Supervisor's office and are also available on the Providence District Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Prov_News.htm •



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.